

Should warfarin vs. aspirin therapy be used for patients with atrial fibrillation and intermediate risk of stroke (CHADS2=1)?

Population: patients at intermediate risk of stroke (CHADS2 score of 1)

Intervention: warfarin

Comparison: aspirin

Setting: outpatients

	JUDGEMENT	DETAILS OF JUDGEMENT	EVIDENCE/EXPLANATION																																																																											
QUALITY	<p>What is the overall quality of evidence?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Very low	<p><i>Critical Outcomes:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>High</th> <th>Moderate</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Very low</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Death</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Non fatal strokes</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Non fatal extracranial major bleeds</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Systemic embolism</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Burden of treatment</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		High	Moderate	Low	Very low	1. Death	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Non fatal strokes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Non fatal extracranial major bleeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Systemic embolism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Burden of treatment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imprecision was a reason for downgrading for nonfatal major bleeds, death and systemic embolisms 																																													
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VALUES AND PREFERENCES	<p>What are the patient's values and preferences, and what certainty do we have about them?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Little uncertainty and similar values <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some uncertainty or some variation <input type="checkbox"/> Significant uncertainty or large variation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Agree</th> <th>Somewhat agree</th> <th>Uncertain</th> <th>Somewhat disagree</th> <th>Disagree</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>High confidence in the typical values</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Values and preferences likely similar</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Agree	Somewhat agree	Uncertain	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	High confidence in the typical values	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Values and preferences likely similar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are moderately confident that patients will place the greatest value on avoiding strokes. Our best estimate from a systematic review is that 1 stroke equals 1 major bleed. There is wide variability in these values and preferences. Patients averse to taking oral anticoagulants for their potential of bleeding may be reluctant to use long-term warfarin therapy. 																																																									
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RESOURCES	Is the incremental cost (or resource use) small relative to the benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost is very small relative to the benefits		Agree	Somewhat agree	Uncertain	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources required seem to worth the net benefit. Both drugs are of low cost. Treatment with warfarin costs USD 5 more per patient per month^ζ. Treatment with warfarin needs tight monitoring controls, increasing the burden of treatment.
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cost is small relative to the benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Cost is borderline relative to the benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Cost is high relative to the benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Cost is very high relative to the benefits	Costs are low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Benefits are important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Balance of consequences	Undesirable consequences <i>clearly outweigh</i> desirable consequences <input type="checkbox"/>	Undesirable consequences <i>probably outweigh</i> desirable consequences <input type="checkbox"/>	The balance between desirable and undesirable consequences is uncertain* <input type="checkbox"/>	There is a balance between desirable and undesirable consequences* <input type="checkbox"/>	Desirable consequences <i>probably outweigh</i> undesirable consequences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Desirable consequences <i>clearly outweigh</i> undesirable consequences <input type="checkbox"/>
Recommendation	<i>We recommend against the option</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>We suggest not using the option</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>We suggest using the option</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<i>We recommend the option</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
In patients at intermediate risk of stroke (CHADS2=1) we suggest using warfarin (over aspirin)						

Recommendation rationale The majority of patients place a higher value on avoiding a stroke than experiencing a bleeding and the inconvenience associated with warfarin. Given the absolute stroke reduction in stroke we suggest the use of warfarin (over aspirin) as most patients if informed would choose this treatment. However, this absolute stroke reduction is considered small for some patients, and many would not choose this treatment.

* In this situation no recommendation could be reasonable

ζ Hypothetical information